

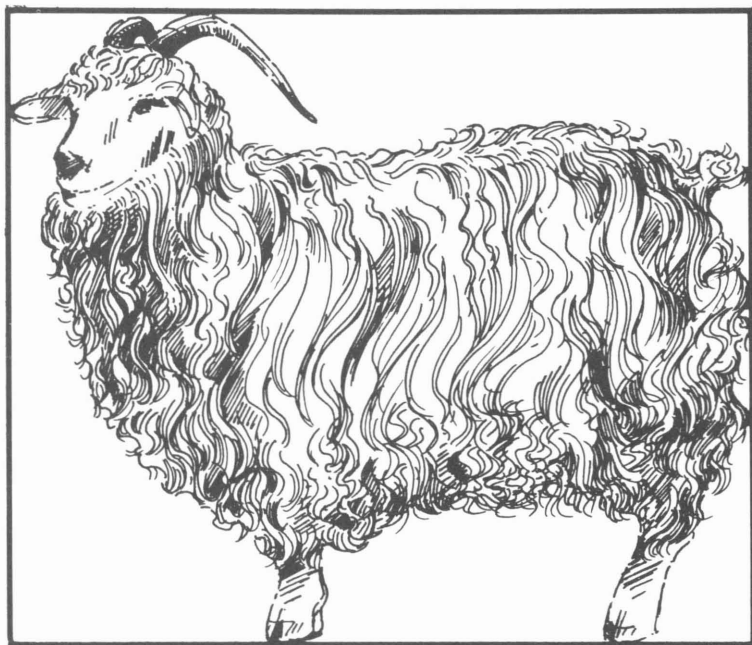
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**Texas Agricultural Extension Service**

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# ***Texas Mohair— Luxurious Fashion***



# TEXAS MOHAIR— LUXURIOUS FASHION

Becky Saunders\*

Soft to the touch, fashionable and wrinkle-resistant, the elegant yet durable fiber, mohair, is produced in Texas. Fabrics made of this versatile fiber appeal to consumers in terms of fashion as well as practicality.

## ***Characteristics***

Texas mohair is among the finest in the world. Designers and manufacturers use mohair and mohair-blends for fashions that create looks ranging from casual to professional. Mohair can be an all-season fiber when blended with other fibers, such as linen for hot weather or wool for cool weather.

Mohair can be worn by all family members from children to adults. Available as pure mohair and in blends, it is used in elegant dresses, classic sweaters, suits and accessories.

Mohair has a natural sheen and luster. Once dyed, it will not fade. Mohair boasts fashionable bright to muted colors with depth and brilliance.

Strong, lasting and durable, mohair springs back when crushed. Because they shed wrinkles, mohair garments are ideal for traveling.

But mohair isn't used just for clothing. Its special qualities make it ideal for home and office furniture, draperies, blankets and throws. Extensive tests have shown that mohair is naturally flame-resistant. Sparks will not easily ignite it. The fabric will not flame and is self-extinguishing. Mohair is also sound-absorbent, insulates against heat and cold and resists fading. Because of these qualities, mohair is desirable for use in theaters and other public buildings.

## ***Care***

Mohair's naturally smooth and slippery surface sheds dirt, making it easy to maintain. Lightly shaking an item or brushing its surface eliminates wrinkles and fluffs the fabric. Follow care labels for cleaning instructions.

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Many garments, such as sweaters, can be economically hand-washed. Hand wash in cool water with a mild detergent. Turn the item wrong side out, move it only slightly in the water without soaking and rinse carefully. After thorough rinsing, block or reshape and dry items flat. Flaps or facings can be pinned or basted flat to dry.

Tailored suits, as well as many other mohair and mohair-blend items, require drycleaning. A reputable drycleaner can preserve the quality of fine mohair garments.

## ***Production***

Texas produces 97 percent of mohair in the United States and supplies about one-fourth of the world market, a total of about 10,000,000 pounds per year. The Texas mohair industry employs about 15,000 people.

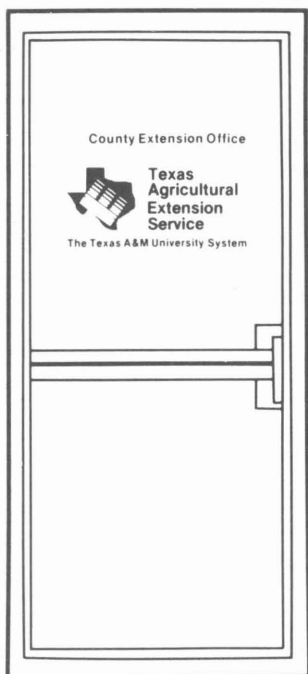
Mohair comes from the coat of angora goats. Suited to mild, dry environments, these goats are found mainly on ranches in central and southwest Texas. They are shorn twice a year, in July or August and in January or February, growing a little less than 1 inch of hair per month or 4 to 6 inches between each shearing. Clippings are marketed through about 30 Texas wool and mohair warehouses to manufacturers around the world, then returned to the United States as fabrics, garments and accessories.

## ***Shopping***

Look for mohair and mohair-blend garments or yarns in your favorite stores. Read the label for mohair content or check for the mohair logo. Items labeled “angora” are not mohair but rabbit hair. In areas where shopping is limited, check for mohair garments in mail order catalogs.



*This logo is displayed on the label of many mohair products.*



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